ASTERISK

MORIMOTO SHUU

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アスタリスク
ASTERISK
15

FWSH
SWSH
LOOKS LIKE WE LOST HIM.
ANGELS DON'T USE THEIR WINGS DURING THE DAY, SINCE HUMANS MIGHT SEE THEM
HE'S PROBABLY LOOKING FOR US DESPERATELY RIGHT NOW.
FORGET ABOUT HIM, LET'S GO LOOK FOR IT.
ARE WE THERE ALREADY?

Oh!
WHEN I'M RIDING THIS, HUMANS CAN'T SEE ME...
...
I HAD TO MOVE FAST, SINCE YOU TWO TOOK OFF SO QUICKLY
LET'S HURRY AND PICK SOME TOE FRUIT.

Stalk Stalk
ANYWAY, YOU CAN'T USE YOUR ANGEL HEALING POWERS ON US ..
GREEN IS DIF-FERENT
GREEN IS AN ANGEL, TOO
I WON'T HAVE AN ANGEL HELP!
HELP WITH THE SICK?
What are you doing?
HEY!?
Lean

HER BREATHING... IS BETTER.
THE FEVER'S GOING DOWN A BIT.
I CAN'T BRING HER FEVER DOWN ENOUGH FOR HER TO RECOVER, THOUGH
THAT WILL LET HER REST EASILY FOR A SHORT TIME.
YOU CAN HATE US ALL YOU WANT, BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE MY HEALING ABILITY.
RACE AND CLAN DON'T MATTER WHEN IT COMES TO TENDING THE SICK.
THERE THEY ARE!.
BUT THIS... IS EVEN WORSE THAN THEY SAID, HUH

FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THEM.
WHAT ARE THESE?
THEY MUST HAVE MANAGED TO GET SOME, BUT THEY PICKED IT CLEAN.
THE TWO WHO CAME HERE AND PICKED TOE FRUIT WERE ALL SCRATCHED UP.
THEY GROW PRETTY WELL IN THIS ROUGH PLACE
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN REACH THEM.
MAYBE THEY'RE GETTING NUTRIENTS FROM THESE VINES.

Jump
... LET'S GO.
THERE ISN'T EVEN SPACE FOR KIDS TO SLIP THROUGH ...
THEY MUST HAVE BEEN DESPERATE TO HELP.
ARE THERE ANY GAPS WHERE WE CAN GET IN?
THE THORNS ARE AMAZING
IT'S SOLID
CREAK

IT'S THE ONLY WAY...
CREAK
IF POSSIBLE, I DIDN'T WANT TO HARM IT
WE'LL HAVE TO CUT AN OPENING TO GET THROUGH
—NO GO. IT'S TOO DENSE.
CREAK
CREAK
HUH?
BUT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

CREAK
I FIGURED IT'D BE BETTER TO DO THIS WITHOUT CAUSING HARM.
CREAK
PLUS WITH HOW STRONG THIS IS, IT'D BE HARD TO CUT.
CREAK
WAIT UP THERE. I'LL GO PICK SOME AND BRING THEM BACK.
NO WAY. I'LL DO IT GET BACK HERE.
creak
creak
creak
YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE KEEPING SCORE HERE.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO FIGHT EACH OTHER.
Crack

...HUH?!
...DID IT...JUST MOVE?
..YEAH, IT DID.
Creak
GRIND
GRIND
WHAT IS THIS!? IS IT CLOSING UP!?
MUST BE TRYING TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM AN INVADER.

WAIT!
I'LL CUT IT!
GRIND
GET OUT, ANGEL! YOU'LL BE CRUSHED TO DEATH!
—WAIT.
THIS... MANAGED TO GROW IN THIS DESOLATE PLACE.
PLEASE...
PART WITH JUST A FEW OF THE TOE FRUIT YOU'RE PROTECTING.

CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
Ugh!
HEY...!
WAIT... I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE.
I'LL HOLD THE VINES OPEN, YOU COME AND GRAB THEM!

creak
creak
OK.
YOU'RE KIDDING
HURRY

CATCH!
Owww
THE PRESSURE IS GETTING WORSE AND WORSE
GOT IT!
CREAK

push
HURRY... GET THEM OUT OF HERE!
I'LL BE FINE...
Grab
GET YOUR-SELF OUT FIRST!
YOU IDIOT! IT'S PIERCED YOUR NECK!

GRIND
Ah!
Grind
Damn thing!
BOTH OF YOU WILL GET OUT.
THE ENTRANCE IS GOING TO CLOSE!
SNIFF
I'M SORRY FOR JUST CLIMBING IN LIKE THAT!
BUT WE'RE NOT YOUR ENEMIES!
VINE! I MIGHT NOT KNOW YOUR NAME,
I HAVE TO AT LEAST... GET HIM OUT...

WE NEVER WANTED TO HURT YOU..
STOP!
WHAT?!
STOP!
DON'T DO THIS TO THEM.

WAVE
WHISKER!
STOP!
PLOP
Meep!
Meep!
STOP!
STOP!
STOP!
I SAID STOP!

CREAK...
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
IT'S OPENING!?
SORRY
.....WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
WE'RE FLOWER OFFICERS
WE WORK AT LORD BRIAR'S PLACE
On Earth duty

YOU'RE WITH LORD BRIAR!
I GET IT.
YOU TWO ARE HURT..
THANKS FOR THE HELP..!
THESE ARE BAD
WE WERE IN THE GRASS-LANDS NEARBY WHEN WE HEARD YOUR VOICE.
Whis-kers, is it?
NO, IT WAS ONLY TRYING TO PROTECT ITSELF.
SORRY ABOUT WHAT WHISKERS DID.
WE PUSHED OUR WAY IN, SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN SCARED.

YOU'RE A NICE ANGEL, KIO
WHAT A NICE GUY.
YEP, NICE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME...?
YOU'VE GOT PRETTY FEATHERS.
YEAH! ♡
YOU HELPED OUT IN KAKAKYOU NOT LONG AGO.
WE KNOW
SO WE KNOW
UM...
WILL YOU...
GIVE US A FEATHER?
SURE

WELL,
WE'LL TURN IT INTO POWER.
AND MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.
THANKS!
WHY DO YOU WANT IT?
Here.
Ready
Go!
FLOAT

hop
RELAX.
THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.
SPARK
GOT IT!
SPARK
IT'S GONE..
HERE!
AND HERE!
ARE THEY ACTUALLY... HEALING YOU?

THANK YOU.
THE PAIN ...
IS GONE.
LET'S BE FRIENDS.
THANKS, FLOWER OFFICERS.
IT'LL BE FINE, NEXT TIME.
THE TOE FRUIT GROW YEAR ROUND, SO IF YOU NEED MORE, YOU CAN COME HERE

POP
POP
POP
FIX THEM
PLEASE
PLEASE
WE WILL!
Yeah
Yeah
BUT NOW THAT IT'S SEPARATE FROM EARTH, IT'S NOT UNDER OUR JURISDICTION
THERE WERE ALSO SOME OF US IN THE TREE RIVER VALLEY.
BEFORE, WE'D HELP SAVE SICK TREES.
THE TREE RIVER VALLEY HAS LOTS OF NICE TREES.
SWAH!
Huh?
DON'T TAKE OUT THAT THING YOU RODE.
So
LET'S HEAD BACK?

swirl
NO PROBLEM.
TH... THANKS.
SWISH
YOU'RE PRETTY NIMBLE, ANGEL.
TAP
YURAI AND THE REST ARE BACK!
MEW
THIS SHOULD BE PLENTY

HOW ARE THE SICK DOING?
THEY'RE RECOVERING SLOWLY.
WE'LL HAVE THE MEDICINE SOON.
BUT UNTIL WE FIX THE TREE DISEASE, MORE PEOPLE WILL GET SICK.
Are you hurt?
None
YOU CAN'T YET!
MY FEVER'S GONE!
I CAN HELP WITH THE TREAT-MENT
Side
I JUST PUT HIM TO SLEEP.
YOU CAN DO THAT TOO?
YOU'RE AMAZING, LORD FRAW!
Zzzz

FRAW, HE...
What kind of herbs do you have in the angels world?
IN THE TIME I WAS GONE, THEY'VE COMPLETELY COME AROUND...
How the heck!?
BUT I FIGURE HE'S PRETTY EXHAUSTED.
HE'S PUTTING UP A STRONG FRONT FOR YOU,
TREATED A WHOLE BUNCH OF THE PATIENTS.
MAYBE I CAN'T BELIEVE ALL THIS, BUT EVEN I FEEL MUCH BETTER.

HE REALLY NEVER DOES SIT STILL.
And the area around it
Like this
BUT HE REALLY IS ONE OF THE SEVEN.
TO BE HONEST, I WAS WORRIED THAT FRAW WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WORK WITH THEM.
SILK, WHERE'S KIO?
MEW
I SEE...
HE MUST BE TIRED...

HUH... NO, NOT YET...
THEN I'LL DO IT.
IS THIS ONE DONE?
I NEED TO GET MORE MEDICINE. WANT ME TO GET YOURS REFILLED AS WELL?
NO, I STILL HAVE SOME.
OK...
USE THIS.
I'LL GO GET MORE.
—AND
SORRY ABOUT BEFORE... WITH THE MANIFIS.

AND YOU WENT THROUGH THAT ORDEAL TO GET THE TOE FRUIT ...
YOU PURIFIED THE GROUND FOR US
I'M SORRY I ACCUSED YOU, TOO.
UM...
BUT WE'VE NEVER ACTUALLY TALKED TO ANY, UNTIL NOW... AND HONESTLY, IT'S A MATTER OF PRIDE...
THEY'VE CONVINCED US THAT HUMANS AND THE ANGELS HELPING HUMANS ARE BAD NEWS
THERE'S NO WAY AROUND OUR ELDERS' HATRED OF HUMANS.
BUT MAYBE IT WAS WRONG TO GO SO FAR AS TO BLAME ANGELS AS WELL
WE CAN'T FORGIVE THE HUMANS WHO CUT THEM DOWN...
OUR RACE COULDN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT THE TREES

ANIMALS AND NATURE ARE ALSO IMPORTANT THAT'S WHY WE HAVE ANGELS LIKE GREEN, AS WELL.
WE DON'T JUST HELP HUMANS.
SO...
I HOPE THAT WE CAN GET ALONE WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE TREE RIVER SOMEDAY.

HA HA HA HA
YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT, HUH?
ALSO...
THERE IS A FLOWER BLOOMING IN THE VALLEY YOU USED TO LIVE IN
NATURE IS TRYING TO SURVIVE.
IT'S REALLY SOME-THING.
THE IDEAS WE HAD ABOUT THEM FROM THE STORIES WERE WRONG.
ANGELS... AREN'T SO DIFFERENT FROM US.

MAYBE THESE TREES WILL CONNECT TO THE ANGEL'S WORLD.
BY THE TIME YOU GROW UP,
I NEVER THOUGHT ANGELS WERE BAD!
Now you guys say that!
Sorry
Sorry
HUH?
AND SOME DAY, WE'LL RETURN TO EARTH ...
BUT... IF THE TREES ARE SICK...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT "GOING HOME"...
YOU'LL GO HOME TO THE ANGEL'S WORLD WITH US!?

I KNEW I COULDN'T RUN...
ONCE I SAW WHAT YOU TWO DID BACK THERE,
NO, I MEAN, I STILL DON'T THINK I'M AN ANGEL!
BUT I CAN'T EXACTLY DENY THAT ANGELS EXIST!
Yeah
AND ALSO.. MAYBE IF I GO TO WHERE ANGELS LIVE,
I'LL REMEMBER SOMETHING
THANKS!
UM... WELL, AND BASED ON WHAT YOU'VE SAID, IT SEEMS LIKE THE TREES THERE HAVE BEEN IN TROUBLE FOR A WHILE NOW
BUT THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE TO TALK TO ABOUT THIS BEFORE I GO, THOUGH.

HE'S THE HEAD OF A PUBLISHING COMPANY, AND I OWE HIM
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
THIS SOLVES THE RIDDLE OF WHY GREEN DOESN'T AGE.
HE'S LOOKED THE SAME EVER SINCE MY DAD WAS A KID.
Huh? Me? Really?
Well, yeah.
WELL, I FIGURED YOU WEREN'T HUMAN. YOU HEAL SO QUICKLY, FOR ONE
...YOU BELIEVE US?
And the way nothing like a human.

...WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT ANYONE WOULD BUY THIS SO QUICKLY.
AND IT'LL BE A LOAD OFF MY BACK. SO? YOU GOING?
THERE MUST BE LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW YOU, RIGHT? THEY'LL RECOGNIZE YOU.
W... WELL, I'M NOT SO SURE ...
YOU'VE GOT TO BE GLAD YOU'VE FIGURED OUT WHO YOU ARE, YEAH?

HE REALLY HELPED ME OUT.
MY GRANDFATHER LOOKED AFTER HIM WHEN HE LOST HIS MEMORY.
HAVE YOU TWO KNOWN EACH OTHER LONG...?

Eek, I'm so sorry...
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU WERE REALLY SNAPPING MANY PHOTOS, SINCE YOU ALWAYS PUT YOUR "TREATMENTS" ABOVE YOUR JOB
NO BIGGIE.

KIO.
But you've got to come back and visit
It's not like I'm going to stay there...

SORRY THIS IS SO SUDDEN
WELL... I FIGURED I'D GO CHECK IT OUT.

OUTSIDE THE WINDOW...

<An Untold Story>

When Green lost his memory, he found himself in a cottage with Denny's grandfather who was on vacation. Denny's grandfather was an oddball and just like that started vouching for Green's identity. Green knew somewhere inside that he wasn't human, so he tried to distance himself and became a travelling photographer. But since he was so friendly by nature, he became close with Denny's family, and even the editorial staff that he rarely saw. He became especially close friends with Denny.

Angels don't show up in pictures or film. But as for his memories from now onward... they'll still be there, won't they?

Till next time

Morimoto Shuu